

REMARKS

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 as being anticipated by Davis. Based on the amendments to the claims, the applicant respectfully submits that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Claim 1 of this application has been amended to include the limitations of the variable width interface section 23 and a constant width region of flap portion 15, variable width interface region having a minimum width set to the width of the smallest paint brush desired to be covered by the device of the present invention. Support for these limitations are found on page 5, l. 8 – p.6, l. 10. This limitation is different than the limitation described in Davis.

Davis shows a constant width wrap portion and flap portion, thus accommodating a paint brush with a width smaller than the width of flap portion would require excess folds. To the contrary, the device of the present invention incorporates both a constant width and variable width regions for flap portion 15. Thus, one device can be used to accommodate paint brushes of varying widths without requiring excess folds.

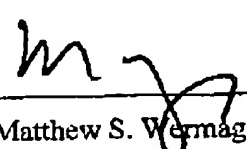
Claim 1 has been further amended to include the limitation that paint brushes of different lengths can be accommodated by the device of the present invention. Support for this amendment can be found on p.6, l. 23 – p. 7, l. 1.

Claim 1 has also been amended to include that the means for securing a paint brush within the device function by supporting underneath the handle of an inserted paint brush which are removably attached to the external surfaces of said wrap portion and said flap portion. Davis discloses a device surrounding the handle of the paint brush, which is a different limitation than that of claim 1 of the present application.

The limitations of Claim 2 have been incorporated into Claim 1 and the applicant has deleted Claim 2 accordingly.

In paragraph 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner has further rejected claims 1-4 as being anticipated by Nielson. Again, based on the amendments to claim 1, the applicant respectfully submits that the application is now in condition for allowance. Nielson, like Davis, does not describe a flap portion having a constant width region and a variable width region, but rather describes, with reference to Figure 6, "variously sized dies or outlines that may be used for the manufacturing the brush retainers of this invention" (col. 3, ll- 40-41). Thus, a different cover must be used for each differently shaped brush. Again, the novelty of the device of the present invention is such that one brush cover can be used for a multitude of differently sized paint brushes.

In paragraph 5 of the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claim 5 of the present application as being obvious in view of Nordstron and Davis, or Nielsen et al. Based on the amendments to claim 1 and the preceding comments, the applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn and that the application is in condition for allowance.

Date: 10/1/05
Matthew S. Wermager
Registration No. 53,760
Rodey Dickason Sloan Akin & Robb PA
P.O. Box 1888
Albuquerque, NM 87103
505-768-7375
Customer No. 26257

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